

Council Member Mike Sullivan's Newsletter

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Council Member
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Residents of District E,

The new mayor, city controller and council members were sworn in on January 4th at Wortham Center. I want to welcome them all, but especially want to extend a warm welcome to Mayor Annise Parker. She takes over at one of the most critical times in recent history. With a burgeoning budget deficit, which is approaching \$200 million dollars next year, manpower shortages in the police department and ballooning pension deficits, she certainly has her hands full.

I met with Mayor Parker on December 29th. In our one-on-one meeting, she shared her ideas with me on how she will work with city council, asked me for input and feedback and discussed some of the problems that she is facing. I pledged to work with her, and spent considerable time bringing her up to speed on how I work with my constituents and what their needs are. It was a productive meeting and I am confident that she will pay attention to the needs of my council district.

There is no doubt that 2010 will be an extremely difficult year for the city of Houston. Revenues have dropped like a rock, the economy is still in the doldrums and there are ever increasing calls for more city services. As I said when I voted against Mayor White's budget last year, we just cannot spend more money than we take in. It's that simple. To spend more than we have is a recipe for disaster. We are beyond "making tough decisions". We have to change the mindset of how we do business.

Please know that I am working full time as your council member and that I will fight to make your voice heard. I am optimistic that we will make progress under Mayor Parker, but in any event, I will continue to be the most conservative voice on Houston City Council.

I appreciate the chance to represent you again as the District E Council Member.

Mike Sullivan
Council Member

Meeting with Montgomery County Commissioner Ed Rinehart

Understanding that traffic congestion continues to grow on Northpark Drive, Council Member Sullivan and Deputy Director of Public Works Andy Icken met with Commissioner Rinehart to discuss the problem. The purpose of the meeting was to explore various long term solutions to traffic and mobility along the northern part of Kingwood. There was consensus to work together and to seek solutions that would benefit both residents and businesses in the area.

Lake Houston Area Chamber of Commerce Governmental Affairs Meeting



On December 8, 2009, Council Member Sullivan was the guest speaker at the Lake Houston Area Chamber of Commerce Governmental Affairs Meeting. During the meeting, he discussed different projects that are currently taking place within the northern half of District E. The projects include the new Kingwood Library, the design of the new community center, the widening of North Park Drive and various traffic improvements.

The "Humble Area Chamber of Commerce" changed its name to "The Lake Houston Area Chamber of Commerce" effective January 1, 2010.

Kingwood Area Republican Women's Club Swears in New Officers

Council Member Sullivan had the privilege of swearing in the 2010 officers of the Kingwood Area Republican Women Club at their annual Christmas party this year. Upon installing the new officers, he also presented former President Halene Crossman with a Proclamation acknowledging her hard work as the head of the KARWC in 2009. More than 90 people attended the event and welcomed the new officers.

Pictured: Council Member Sullivan, President Betty Newton, 1st VP Wendy Alexander, 2nd VP Kathryn Dahlin, Recording Secretary Anne Wallace, Treasurer Len Leofsky, Corresponding Secretary Karen Dunne



Meeting with HPD Captain Bryan Bennett



Last month the Kingwood Police Patrol Station hired Captain Bryan Bennett, an 11-year HPD officer. Captain Bennett replaces Captain Robert Montgomery who was transferred to the SWAT Unit. Council Member Sullivan met with the new captain to talk about staffing, resources, future needs and current trends. Both he and Captain Bennett are working hard to ensure safety in the Kingwood, Summerwood and Lakeshore communities.

Project Updates

- Dedicated right turn lanes have been approved for all directions at the intersection of Kingwood Drive and West Lake Houston Parkway. Construction should commence in the first quarter of 2010.
- Designs are underway for a new community center, which will be located at the old library site.
- Widening of Northpark is under design. Construction is scheduled to begin in April 2010.
- An additional \$289,000 has been earmarked for the Kingwood HPD substations for overtime programs and Mobility Response Teams.
- Construction of the new library is complete. Keys will be turned over to Harris County this month.

Almeda Mall Improvement District

On January 6, city council passed an ordinance consenting to the creation of Harris County Improvement District No. 16 (Almeda Mall). This district is authorized to promote, develop, encourage and maintain employment, commerce, transportation, housing, tourism, recreation, arts, entertainment, economic development, safety and public welfare. The District's Board of Directors will pursue an improvement plan that will include projects such as security and public safety, landscaping and median improvements as well as economic development initiatives. Council Member Sullivan looks forward to working with the Board of Directors and working towards achieving those common goals.

Construction Along Fuqua

Council Member Sullivan would like to announce that the City of Houston's Department of Public Works and Engineering has begun constructing a 72-inch water line on Fuqua Street, from Beamer Road to Stover. Construction began on December 1, 2009 and is expected to continue until August 8, 2010. The contractor, Huff and Mitchell, Inc., is required to provide residents written notification, via door hangers, 72 hours prior to construction on their street.

If you should have any questions about the construction phase, please call the Construction Management and Inspection Project Manager, Terry Roberson at 281-830-0561.

Project Updates

- Sagemont Community Center design work is underway.
- Outdoor lighting for Law Park has been approved and will be installed in early 2010.
- South Shaver extension paving is planned to start in summer 2010. TXDOT will manage the project for the City of Houston.
- The new 12,000 square foot and LEED Silver certified J.S. Bracewell Library is open.
- Monroe Road improvements are complete.
- This spring, METRO will be adding 150 new parking spaces at the South Point Park and Ride Lot offering a total of 766 spaces to patrons.

Clear Lake Area Chamber of Commerce Building Dedication

Council Member Sullivan congratulates the Clear Lake Area Chamber of Commerce on their recent building dedication ceremony held on December 17, 2009. Due to Hurricane Ike damage, the Chamber was forced to rebuild. With help from the community and local businesses, they were able to open a year after being hit by the hurricane. On behalf of Council Member Sullivan, his South Sector Manager, Lauren Doak, presented a certificate of recognition to Chamber President Cindy Harreld as an appreciation for all they do for the Bay Area.

BAHEP Board of Directors Meeting

The Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership held their Board of Directors meeting on December 15th at Space Center Houston. As part of the Board of Directors, Council Member Sullivan attended the meeting to discuss the budget and working together for the future as well as to elect new officers. Other business discussed was the 2010 Quasar Award Banquet being held on Friday, January 22, 2010 at the South Shore Harbour Resort and Conference Center. This year's prestigious award is being presented to Texas State Representative Craig Eiland for contributing to the economic prosperity of the Bay Area. BAHEP staff also highlighted their accomplishments from 2009 and laid out their goals for 2010. BAHEP President Bob Mitchell declared that one of their main goals is to increase communication with their membership.

Council Member Sullivan wants to thank BAHEP for their hard work in the area of retaining jobs in the aerospace industry. He commits to support their efforts going forward and has already advised Mayor Annise Parker of BAHEP's importance in the Clear Lake area.

Project Updates

- Railroad crossings along Highway 3 at Clear Lake City Blvd., Pineloch and El Dorado have been repaired.
- Concrete repairs have been completed on all major Clear Lake area thoroughfares.
- \$250,000 in overtime has been designated for use by HPD Clear Lake substation.
- Ellington Airport has almost \$50 million dollars in military construction projects now underway.
- Council Member Sullivan received the final draft of the Clear Lake traffic operations study draft, and it is currently under review.

Compostable Bag Program

The City of Houston's Solid Waste Department has delayed the implementation of the new Compostable Bag Program, which mandates the use of a specific biodegradable bag to dispose of lawn and grass clippings. Due to the lack of supply in area retail stores, the new program will go into effect on **February 1, 2009** to allow more time for the bags to reach shelves. Residents can find the new bags at Walmart stores, and will be able to purchase them at CVS, Ace Hardware, Do It Best Hardware and Kroger in the near future.

For more detail and locations to buy the bags, please visit www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste.

Fire Station Tours

Council Member Sullivan spent Christmas week and Christmas day visiting fire stations in his district. He ate breakfast and dinner with stations 61, 71, 72, 93, 94, 101, 102 and 103. His visits were a great opportunity to show his appreciation for those who serve us and for him to hear firefighters concerns, needs and questions. He would like to thank all those stations that welcomed him into their second home during the holidays.

Pictured: Engineer/Operator Tommy Cones, Firefighter Darrell Salsman, Council Member Sullivan, Captain Fran Connolly, Firefighter George Anderson from Station 94, C Shift.



Grand Opening of HPD's Firing Range

On December 15th, the Houston Police Department officially opened the doors of their new pistol fire range on their training facility grounds off of Aldine Westfield. Chief Harold Hurtt, Captain James Jones and Regina Woolfolk, all with HPD, introduced the new facility to their officers as they deserve the best training grounds to hone in on skills that are both needed and required. Council Member Sullivan attended the press conference and witnessed officers demonstrate their essential skills on the range. He also publicly thanked HPD's command staff, especially Executive Assistant Chief Kirk Munden for spearheading the project.



Former Chief Harold Hurtt welcomes his officers to their new range.

HPD Addresses Assessment on Latent Print Unit



Council Member Sullivan sits with Executive Assistant Chief Martha Montalvo, Consultant Ron Smith and HPD Executive Chief Tim Ottemier as they listen to HPD's Deputy Director Regina Woolfolk speak.

Chief Hurtt with the Houston Police Department held a press conference on December 1st to discuss significant deficiencies within the Latent Print Unit. Steps to correct these deficiencies have already been implemented by HPD. In addition, Council approved \$3 million on December 16th to go towards paying a team of consultants to investigate the situation as well as to continue the daily operations of the unit.

Council Member Sullivan was personally invited by Chief Hurtt to attend the press conference.

Houston Police Officers Union Blood Drive

During the Christmas holidays, Council Member Sullivan donated blood at HPOU's holiday blood drive held at their headquarters. The blood that was taken went to support police officers and their families. He was the only council member that attended and always makes sure to donate blood for law enforcement.

You can find Council Member Sullivan featured on [HPOU's website](#) in a brief write up about the event. HPOU 2nd V.P., Ray Hunt, writes, "Note that he always supports police and HPOU functions, including being a regular at every HPOU blood drive."



Council Member Sullivan pictured with a volunteer officer.

New Animal Campus at Gragg Park



BARC Director David Atencio and Council Member Sullivan

Council Member Sullivan joined Mayor White during a press conference December 18, announcing plans for a new animal campus at Gragg Park, along Brays Bayou and Wayside Drive. Houstonians will have the opportunity to adopt dogs and cats from the City's Bureau of Animal Regulation and Care (BARC) at the new campus. The adoption facility will also include a low-cost veterinary clinic as well as a dog park, open to the public.

The Animal Campus at Gragg Park will be owned by the City of Houston and the adoption center and veterinary clinic will be operated by an independent organization under contract with the City. The design of the campus will be completed this year with construction beginning early 2011.

Term Limits Commission

Last month a commission was named by Mayor Bill White to review Houston's current term-limits laws. The Term Limits Commission is chaired by Arthur Schechter, a former Metropolitan Transit Authority chairman and former U.S. Ambassador, and is comprised of many other leading local leaders and officials. Council Member Sullivan appointed former City Council Member Carroll Robinson as his representative. By ordinance, the commission will prepare a report analyzing the impact of term limitations adopted as part of Houston's City Charter in 1993. Their final report is scheduled to be presented to city council by July 1, 2010.

Tree Waste

Council Member Sullivan would like to remind District E residents that the City of Houston's Solid Waste Department will only pick up **Tree Waste** in January. Tree Waste is defined as "clean" wood waste such as tree limbs, branches and stumps. Lumber, furniture and treated wood will NOT be accepted.

For more placement instructions, please visit the Solid Waste Department's website at www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste.

You can also recycle your Christmas tree at any of the appropriate drop off centers. Kingwood residents are encouraged to use the Ben View Lane at Ben Branch Drive location. South Belt and Clear Lake residents can use the Ellington Airport Recycling Center at Hwy 3 and Brantley Rd.

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